

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01187 021733Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A) VE

SUBJ: SUGGESTIONS FOR BRIEFING MATERIAL ON VENEZUELA FOR
SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPARATION OF BRIEFING MATERIAL ON VENEZUELA FOR THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, WE SUGGEST MENTION BE MADE THAT SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR ASSUMED OFFICE IN JAN 1975 WE HAVE STRIVEN IN MANY WAYS TO INTENSIFY BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND VENEZUELA.

2. TO FOSTER THE SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE, PERIODIC VISITS TO HIS COUNTRY BY RANKING USG OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE DEPT (E G UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS), HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ WAS HERE FOR A FRUITFUL VISIT LAST SUMMER. CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT, WITH SENATOR JAVITS HERE JUST THIS MONTH.

3. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED AN INCREASING STREAM OF OFFICIAL VISITORS IN THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND LABOR FIELDS, REFLECTING OUR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN CONTACTS IN THESE AREAS. THE EMBASSY HAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPT A PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND VENEZUELA.

4. THE AMBASSADOR ON OCT 23 DELIVERED AN AIDE-MEMOIRE
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PAGE 02 CARACA 01187 021733Z

TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATING THAT THE US WAS PREPARED TO

IMPLEMENT THE "MORTON OFFER" AND INVITING THE GOV TO SEND A TEAM OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED ENERGY EXPERTS TO SHARE US RESEARCH IN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. THIS INVITATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH ENTHUSIASM BY PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR, THE LATTER DESCRIBING IT AS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP THE US HAS YET TAKEN IN TERMS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TOW COUNTRIES. WE NOW ARE WORKING WITH THE GOV TO SELECT CANDIDATES FOR THE PROJECT.

5. IN ADDITION, AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, WE ARE INTENSIVELY EXPLORING, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH AID/WASHINGTON, WITH GOV OFFICIALS WAYS AND MEANS OF STIMULATING COUNTRY-FINANCED TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA. WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GOV TO STENGTHEN ITS COOPERATION IN OUR DRUG ENFORCEENT PROGRAMS AND ALSO TO EXPAND THE GOV'S OWN ANTI-NARTOTICS ACTIVITIS. AN INFORMAL WORK GROUP HAS BEEN FORMED WITH MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATINAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE US AND VENEZUELAN ATTITUDES VIS-A-VIS THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATINAL ECONOMIC COOPERATIN
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